

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 037477 TOSEC 020105
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:FGWISNER:SBA
APPROVED BY AF:WESCHAUFLE, JR.
S/S - MR. GAMBLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 037477 TOSEC 020105

EXDIS ,FROM SCHAUFLE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFO,, RH

SUBJECT: SOUTHERN AFRICAN SITUATION

1. MY MEETING WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR.
I MET AMBASSADOR BOTHA THIS AFTERNOON. BOTHA, WHO HAS
BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIS GOVERNMENT, DEFENDED HIS FOREIGN
MINISTER'S ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS YESTERDAY,
FEBRUARY 16, AT THE CAPE TOWN PRESS CLUB. BOTHA SAID
THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THERE IS A
MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OURSELVES, THE BRITISH AND
THEM. HE GAVE ME HIS GOVERNMENT'S ASSURANCE THAT THE
SOUTH AFRICANS ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LEAKS TO THE
PRESS WHICH APPEARED IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN AND BRITISH
PRESS ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, AND IN THE DAYS WHICH
FOLLOWED. SINCE THE FIRST LEAKS, THE SAG HAS SOUGHT TO
RESPOND TO PRESS INQUIRIES IN A FASHION THAT WOULD NOT
RAISE EXPECTATIONS THAT A MAJOR NEW INITIATIVE IS
CONTEMPLATED AND HAVE TRIED TO SET IN THE CONTEXT OF
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PAGE 02 STATE 037477 TOSEC 020105

ONGOING CONSULTATIONS PRESS REFERENCES TO A HIGH LEVEL
MEETING BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS. BOTHA SAID THAT
VORSTER WAS PERSONALLY UPSET OVER THE MISUNDERSTANDING
AND PLANNED NO FURTHER COMMENT. HE HOPES THAT WE AND
THE BRITISH WILL DO THE SAME.

2. BOTHA POINTED OUT THAT MULLER'S STATEMENT TO THE

PRESS IN CAPE TOWN EMPHASIZED SOUTH AFRICA'S COMMITMENT TO A "NEGOTIATED PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT" IN RHODESIA. HE ASKED THAT THIS STATEMENT BE BROUGHT TO YOUR ATTENTION SINCE, IN HIS JUDGMENT, IT ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS TO HIM WITH RESPECT TO SOUTH AFRICA'S VIEWS ABOUT SMITH'S INTERNAL OPTION.

3. I TOLD BOTHA THAT I AGREED THERE WAS NO PURPOSE IN OUR WRANGLING IN PUBLIC OVER WHO HAD MENTIONED FIRST TO THE PRESS THE POSSIBILITY OF A HIGH LEVEL MEETING AND A NEW INITIATIVE. WE, TOO, ARE INTERESTED IN SEEING THE PROCESS MOVE FORWARD IN A CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER. BOTHA AND I AGREED THAT FURTHER COMMENTS TO THE PRESS SHOULD BE LIMITED TO A GENERAL STATEMENT THAT CONSULTATIONS ARE CONTINUING BETWEEN ALL INTERESTED PARTIES AND THAT THE US WOULD CONTINUE CONSULTATIONS AND, IF NECESSARY, MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BRITISH AND SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS AS WELL AS OTHER PARTIES TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF REACHING A SETTLEMENT.

4. NAMIBIA. I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF BOTHA'S VISIT TO ASK HIM IF HIS GOVERNMENT STOOD BY THE SEVEN POINT PROPOSAL WHICH WAS NEGOTIATED IN PRETORIA LAST SEPTEMBER. BEFORE SEEING THE AMBASSADOR, I CLEARED THE POINTS WITH ZBIG BRZEZINSKI, AS YOU SUGGESTED. I TOLD BOTHA THAT IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHERE MATTERS STOOD ON NAMIBIA BUT WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE AFRICAN PRESIDENTS ARE DISPOSED TO BE HELPFUL. BEFORE PROCEEDING WE NEED TO KNOW IF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT STILL STANDS BEHIND THE SEVEN
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PAGE 03 STATE 037477 TOSEC 020105

POINTS. I ALSO REPEATED TO BOTHA OUR INTEREST IN SEEING THAT THE TURNHALLE NOT MOVE FORWARD TOO FAR OR TOO FAST BECAUSE OF OUR INTEREST IN AN ACCEPTABLE INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENT. I SAID THAT IF HIS GOVERNMENT REPLIED POSITIVELY WE WOULD CONSIDER MAKING ANOTHER TRY. BOTHA, WHO WILL BE IN SAN FRANCISCO UNTIL SUNDAY, SAID HE WOULD QUERY CAPE TOWN.

5. CONSULTATIONS WITH THE BRITISH. THE BRITISH HAVE INFORMED US THAT DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY SIR ANTHONY DUFF WILL BRING A THREE MAN TEAM TO WASHINGTON ON FEBRUARY 21. THEY WISH TO DISCUSS RHODESIA, SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA DURING THE COURSE OF THEIR STAY WHICH MAY LAST WELL INTO THE WEEK. WE ARE PREPARING AN AGENDA FOR THE MEETINGS.

6. THE BRITISH ARE PLAYING THE VORSTER OFFER WITH GREAT CARE. DUFF IS NOT PRESENTLY AUTHORIZED TO MEET WITH BOTHA. AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH US, IN WHICH HE WILL SEEK

AN AGREED ASSESSMENT OF SOUTH AFRICAN MOTIVES AND CURRENT RHODESIAN ATTITUDES, DUFF WILL REPORT OUR VIEWS TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. SUBJECT TO HIS GOVERNMENT'S REACTION, AND DURING HIS STAY IN WASHINGTON, DUFF MAY BE AUTHORIZED TO JOIN US AND TO EXPLORE WITH BOTHA THE SOUTH AFRICAN PROPOSAL FOR FURTHER CONSULTATIONS. THE RESULT OF THIS EXPLORATION WILL BE REPORTED TO LONDON AND AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH US, WE WILL TOGETHER DECIDE HOW TO RESPOND DEFINITELY TO VORSTER'S OFFER. WHATEVER THE BRITISH DECIDE, I MIGHT SEE BOTHA ANYWAY AND PURSUE WITH HIM HOW HIS GOVERNMENT SEES THE NEGOTIATIONS PROCEEDING.

7. I AM SENDING AN INSTRUCTION TO OUR POSTS IN THE FRONT LINE STATES INFORMING THEM OF OUR INTENTION TO MEET THE BRITISH NEXT WEEK IN ORDER TO COUNTER POSSIBLE AFRICAN SUSPICIONS THAT THE BRITISH, SOUTH AFRICANS AND
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PAGE 04 STATE 037477 TOSEC 020105

OURSELVES ARE PREPARING AN INITIATIVE BEHIND THEIR BACKS. I AM ALSO ASKING OUR AMBASSADORS TO INFORM THE FOREIGN MINISTERS THAT THERE ARE NO PRESENT PLANS FOR A HIGH LEVEL MEETING.
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PAGE 01 STATE 037477
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DRAFTED BY: AF/S:FGWISNER:SBA
APPROVED BY: AF:WESCHAUFLE, JR.
S/S SESTEINER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 037477

EXDIS, FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG FROM SCHAUFELLE

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 37477 TO USDEL SECRETARY FEB 18, 1977

QTE S E C R E T STATE 037477 TOSEC 020105

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PAGE 02 STATE 037477

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PAGE 03 STATE 037477

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HARTMAN UNQTE HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, NEGOTIATIONS, NEWS LEAKS
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Sent Date: 18-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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TAGS: PFOR, RH, (BOTH, R F)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
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